



The 12th Edition

Volume 6, Issue 9

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, September 10, 2004

News Briefs

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is **2 p.m. Sept. 30 in the Battlestaff Conference Room, Bldg. 12.**

Honorees need to be in place by 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 228-6053.

Lithographs

Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs has the following lithographs available:

- National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2004 lithographs.

- 100 Years of Airpower Lithograph packages. Each package contains 10 different lithographs.

Promotion info

The Air Force's training video, *"How SNCOs are promoted to SMSGT and CMSGT,"* is available for download on the 12th Air Force public drive at N:\Public\B12\PA.

SOUTHAF leaders visits JTF-Bravo

By 1st Lt. Anna Siegel
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Officer

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras – Twelfth Air Force leadership visited the base Aug. 22-23, to see how the troops are doing and thank them for their hard work.

Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt, the commander of 12th Air Force/U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, his wife, Lisa, and 12th AF Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Lane made Joint Task Force-Bravo their first stop on a whirl-wind tour of the Central American area of responsibility.

After Honduras, the group visited Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Guyana and Curacao.

"We have about 750 people deployed from 12th Air Force in various [Air and Space Expeditionary Force] cycles all throughout the region and 170 stationed

here," the general said. It's his priority to see that those Airmen and their families have what they need to be successful in their personal lives and to accomplish the mission.

General Schmidt said that even though JTF-Bravo already acts as the "lily pad" or central hub for important training and

exercises in Central America, that role is only going to increase as the counter narcotic/terrorism mission here becomes more prominent.

"Airmen everywhere are doing

non-traditional Airmen things," he said during a barbecue with the Airmen here. "[They] are pushing the envelope, fully engaged in the Global War on Terror."

Mrs. Schmidt met with the spouses to encourage them to make the most of their time here, address gender-specific concerns and share some of her experiences living in Central America.

"People should take advantage of all the opportunities here, such as education," she said. "Make it a year of bettering your mind and body."

The group's visit included touring the base's newest facilities, including the quad dorms and ammunition supply point.

Chief Lane said in his year as the 12th AF Command Chief, he's discovered many places he didn't know Airmen even were.

"Twelfth Air Force has some special challenges with the locations our people are stationed at or deployed to," he said. "But all [the Airmen] I've met here are outstanding people with incredibly positive attitudes."

All the visitors expressed their amazement at the professionalism the Airmen here possess and encouraged them to stay proud of what they're doing.

"The question to ask yourself at the end of the day is, 'When my country needed me, what did I do?'" General Schmidt said.

Chief Lane added, "Keep up the great things you're doing for the Air Force. Thank you for what you do."

Airmen everywhere are doing non-traditional Airmen things. [They] are pushing the envelope, fully engaged in the Global War on Terror.

– Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt,
Commander, 12th Air Force

NAF rifleman earns gold at his first national competition

By Tech. Sgt. Karin Wickwire-Krause
12th Air Force Public Affairs

As a member of the U.S. Air Force High Power Rifle Team, one Twelfth Air Force sergeant has brought home a gold medal after his first time competing in the National Rifle and Pistol Championships held August in Camp Perry, Ohio.

Tech. Sgt. David Johnson, Twelfth Air Force Air Field Manager, earned his medal in the John C. Garand Match by shooting a 282 out of a possible 300 using an "as issued" service-grade M1 rifle. His score placed him in the top 2.5 percent out of almost 1,300 participants, qualifying him for the gold medal. The Garand Match is sanctioned by the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

In addition to his gold medal, Sergeant Johnson placed second in the Leech Cup 1,000 yard match in the Masters Class. The Masters Class is the fourth highest shooting class recognized by the National Rifle Association which co-sanctioned the National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

"Since this is my first year competing, I was considered unclassified because I've never officially competed

in a sanctioned high-power, long-range rifle match," said Sergeant Johnson.

"Without a score history it's standard to be placed in the Masters Class on your first match to make sure you aren't placed in a class you could easily win."

During the Leech Cup match, shooters use a high-power, long-range rifle with standard sights to shoot 22 rounds in 22 minutes, the first two rounds are "sighter shots," at a distance of 1,000 yards.

While this may seem like a long time to shoot 20 shots, the long range shooters have to take many factors into account before taking their shots, such as waiting for lulls in the wind before firing a round. At a distance of 1,000 yards, a five knot wind can move a bullet up to



Tech. Sgt. David Johnson, U.S. Air Force High Power Rifle team member, demonstrates one of the positions used at the National Rifle and Pistol Championship competition.

50 inches, Sergeant Johnson explained.

To earn his second place, he shot a 196 out of a possible 200 score, missing first by a single point.

"The winner had shot a 197, however, if we would have tied, I would have been the winner due to more shots on the 'X'," he said.

However, competing wasn't the entire focus of the championship matches for U.S. Air Force High Power Rifle Team.

As members of the rifle team part of our responsibility is to support the Civilian Marksmanship Program. During the first two days at the competition, we con-

See RIFLEMAN, Pg. 3

SOUTHAF, Latin American leaders fight narco trafficking

By Capt Esmeralda Silvestre
12th Air Force Public Affairs

U.S. Southern Air Forces hosts more than 90 Latin American military leaders in Florida to discuss counter drug operations Aug. 3-6.

Brig. Gen. Mark Stearns, U.S. Southern Command Air Forces vice commander, lead the annual senior-level Regional Air Forces Counterdrug conference last month. Although briefings were given in English, Spanish and Portuguese there never was a problem understanding each other because everyone's mission was the same — to fight the war against narco trafficking.

"This is a very important conference that helps us to continually enhance military-to-military relations with South American countries. We discuss common issues and the way ahead to interdict the common enemy of drug trafficking," said General Stearns.

This year's RAFC had representatives from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The annual Key West, Fla. conference is very popular not only because of the amazing location, but most importantly because it provides a forum for these coun-

tries to discuss issues between themselves and to begin the process for bilateral agreements.

"RAFC is a great tool that USSOUTHAF and all the participating nations use to talk about current operations, exercises, concerns, bilateral and multilateral agreements," said Mr. Jim Knoll, Chief, Counterdrug Radar Systems in the 612th Support Squadron.

This conference was extremely successful in bringing together the countries within the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility and Mexico to discuss the air related transnational threats facing our counterdrug operations, Mr. Knoll concluded.



School days

Mark, a local Timehri child, cuts the ribbon to the new Timehri nursery school during the Aug. 25 ceremony commemorating the New Horizons 04 Guyana training exercises in Sophia and Timehri, Guyana.

1st Lt. Lori Dockendorf



The 12th Edition

Editorial content for *The 12th Edition* is edited, prepared and provided by the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office.

Contributions for *The 12th Edition* can be made directly to the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office, Building 12, Suite 228, or through e-mail to 12af.pa@dm.af.mil. The editor can be reached directly at 228-6053.

All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The 12th Edition is a supplement to the *Desert Airman*, published by Aerotech News and Review, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written agreement with the 355th Wing. All Advertising is handled by Aerotech News and Review, 456 East Ave. K-4, Suite 8, Lancaster, Calif. 93535, phone

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Courtesy photo

No, I think it goes the other way

Manta Fire and Emergency Services Fire Department members arrange a display of their HazMat Truck with assigned Confine Space and High Angle rescue gear. The Forward Operating Location Manta MFES volunteered support to the Manta City Fire Department Annual Open House event held in August to celebrate the department's 114 years of dedicated fire services to the city of Manta. They provided lectures and demonstrations of specialized rescue equipment for the students and local residents who stopped by the display.

SALUTE!

Promotees

Airman 1st Class

Krystal McKenney
Christina Pyrdol
Nina Schluntz



Senior Airman

Krista Cabana
William Cooper
Mark Ingold
Adam Ismael
David Lee
Tommy Suftko
Arnold Tabatt
Poiter Wright

Staff Sgt

Marcus Garrett
Michael Ybarra



Technical Sgt

William Whited

Master Sgt

Gary Silvia

First Lieutenant

Suzanne Delgado
Marsha Wilder

Congratulations to 12thAF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments

Medal Recipients

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Capt. David Osterman, 12 AF/FP

AF Commendation medal

Capt. Esmeralda Silvestre, 12 AF/PA

Quarterly awards

Airman

SSgt Karen Abplanalp, 612 COS
NCO

TSgt. Michael Ogden, 612 ABS
SNCO

SMSgt. Joseph Gregory, 612 ASPTS

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Cassie Gorr, 474 OG

Senior Civilian Employee

Roger Hurt, 612 SPTS

Top of the 12th

A1C Leslie Champion is a Weather Forecaster in the 25th Operational Weather Squadron.

“Leslie is my most aggressive and energetic Airman,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Carpenter, Shift Supervisor, Southwest Regional Flight, 25 OWS. “When she sets her sights on a goal, nothing is going to stop her from obtaining it. It’s been an honor supervising her for the past ten months.”



A1C Champion

Years of service: 23 months

Hometown: Pleasant Hill, Mo.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: To actively watch, produce and issue weather forecasts, watches, warnings and advisories for the Southwest Region. Complete QA and metric assignments for the flight.

Favorite aspects of D-M: Usually the year round weather with no snow and outdoor activities.

If you could change one thing to improve D-M, what would it be? To see more flexible hours at the gates, commissary and shopettes to support the shift workers.

What motivates your winning attitude? To see the results of my work and how it affects the mission, and to see a growing squadron work together. Also, my family and friends who support me through all life’s challenges and ups and downs.

RIFLEMAN

Continued from Page 1

duct Small Arms Development Classes where we teach almost 2,000 civilians fundamentals of shooting. Those fundamentals include breathing techniques, sight picture, trigger control and wind conditions.

After the students learn the fundamentals, they practice what they learned by shooting at a 200 yard distance and then a 300 yard distance, explained Sergeant Johnson.

These classes and the following matches give the high power rifle team members ample opportunity to repre-

sent the Air Force as both competitors and professional military members.

“During these matches we interact heavily with other services and the civilian population. We also field a lot of questions from junior shooters who are interested in joining a military service,” said Maj. Eric Bellows, Team Captain, U.S. Air Force High Power Rifle Team. “The feedback we get is unanimously positive.”

(For more information about the USAF High Power Rifle Team, call Tech. Sgt. Johnson at 228-7317.)

